



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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CYSTOPTERIS MONTANA **MOUNTAIN BLADDER FERN**

Mountain Bladder Fern is a perennial with delicate fronds arising singly from dark, cord-like, creeping rhizomes. The black, sparsely scaly petioles, 6-30 cm long, are longer than the triangular blades, which are 6-14 cm long and wide. The blade is pinnately divided into numerous pairs of leaflets, which are smaller towards the tip. The lower leaflets are again 2-3 times pinnately divided, while the upper leaflets are only pinnately lobed. The first downward pointing division of each of the 2 lowest leaflets is noticeably longer than the paired upward pointing divisions. Clusters of spores, or sori, are borne on veins just in from the edges on the undersides of the blades. Each one is partially contained in a whitish membranous indusium. Mature fronds in August.

The blades of *C. FRAGILIS* are at least twice as long as they are wide. *GYMNOCARPIMUM DRYOPTERIS* has a triangular blade, but it is somewhat wider than it is long, and the sorus lacks an indusium. *DRYOPTERIS AUSTRIACA* has blades that are over 20 cm long.